

FOCUS

AUGUST
2024



Retrospect



AUGUST AT HOPE

As summer winds down, we invite you to reconnect with your Hope Unitarian Church family through a series of engaging and fun events. The Membership Committee is hosting an Ice Cream Party on Thursday, August 15, at 6:30 PM on the hill. Join us for light snacks, indulge in a delightful ice cream bar, and enjoy games for all ages. The evening will culminate in a game night hosted by Game Warden, Emily Scherer. Be sure to check your email and Highlights for further details. We welcome every adult, child, in-law, and out-law to come and share in the fellowship.

Women of Hope will gather on Thursday, August 1, at Julia Harris' home. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect and engage with fellow members. More details will follow, so stay tuned for additional information.

We are excited to announce the first meeting of the Banned and Challenged Book Club during Adult Forum. Throughout the year, we will read and discuss books that have faced bans or challenges across the United States. Our first discussion will be on August 11 at 10 AM, focusing on *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Whether you read the book or not, we encourage you to attend. We look forward to a meaningful and thought-provoking conversation.

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude for your generosity. In May, we raised \$1,355.75 for Tulsa CARES, and in June, we raised \$1,291.00 for The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges. Your contributions make a significant difference in our community. Thank you for your continued support and involvement.



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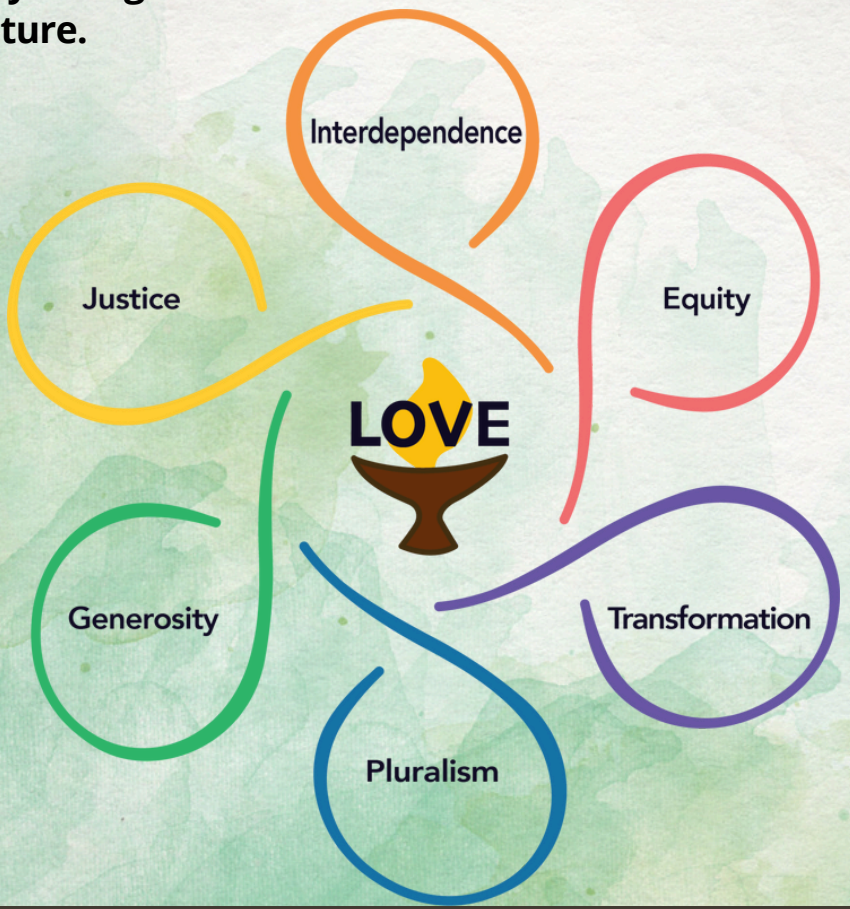
REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

AN INTRODUCTION TO LOVE

It has been an exciting year for Unitarian Universalism. If you have noticed my sermons during the summer highlighting the new list, you might have also noticed the flower image that I've used on many of the Orders of Service.

If you are unfamiliar, the image description is as follows: The image is of a chalice with an overlay of the word "Love" over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values, forming a six-petal flower shape. Each arm is a different color, and clockwise they are: Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice.

This image highlights the old Unitarian Covenant that begins, "Love is the spirit of this church and service its law." But the image goes further than just saying that love is at the center; it defines what we mean by love. A church with love as its spirit is an interdependent, pluralistic, and generous church, committed to transformation, justice, and equity. This highlights not only the history and commitment to being part of the arc of history that represents justice in our churches but also lays the groundwork for that continued commitment in the future.



Rev. Justin would love to meet with you to provide pastoral care or just to get to know you!

His usual office hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 AM through 3 PM.

Please email him at revjustin@hopeuu.org to schedule an appointment to meet in person or via Zoom.

If your need is urgent, call him at 918-481-0999, x2.



Youth at Heart

AUGUST GENEROSITY RECIPIENT

Since its inception in 1976, Youth At Heart has been a pillar of support for youth in Tulsa's socio-economically challenged neighborhoods. Their mission transcends the traditional scope of afterschool programs by offering a holistic approach that includes education, recreation, and social development. With a variety of programs such as tutoring, character building, mentoring, health and fitness training, sports leagues, career exploration, community service, and summer camps, Youth At Heart provides a comprehensive support system for Tulsa's underserved youth.

The dedicated staff and volunteers at Youth At Heart work tirelessly to help these young individuals discover and nurture their hidden potential. By focusing on mental, social, and physical growth, the organization ensures that its participants are not just engaged after school but are also prepared for life's challenges. Their programs are designed to instill values, develop character, and equip youth with the skills needed for success in their future endeavors.

In an era where funding for afterschool programs is diminishing, Youth At Heart stands as a crucial resource for Tulsa's youth. As our church's Generosity Recipient for August, we recognize and support their invaluable contributions to the community. By providing a safe and enriching environment, Youth At Heart continues to pave the way for healthy, productive lives, reinforcing our collective commitment to fostering a brighter future for all.



Donate

Volunteer

A promotional graphic for Youth At Heart. It features a group of diverse young children in a classroom setting, many holding oranges. A large screen in the background displays the Youth At Heart logo and the text "LET'S TALK ABOUT ORANGES". Overlaid on the image is the text "Orange You Glad You Can Join Our Team?" in white. Below this, a blue banner reads "Community Relations & Development Committee". At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text "NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!".

Orange You Glad You Can Join Our Team?

Community Relations & Development Committee

Do you have an interest in supporting YAH's mission by donating your time & talents?? We have room for you on our Community Relations & Development Committee! Committee members are committed to helping the growth & visibility of the YAH brand through events, all forms of media and more.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!





CYRE Update, August 2024

"We are Unitarian Universalists: a people of the open mind, the loving heart, and the helping hands." The children often recite words like these when a chalice is lit to begin religious education time.

If you are interested in learning more about what "growing up Unitarian Universalist" looks like in the broader context, please click [here](#).

At Hope this summer we will be embracing the theme Summer Sundays, Summer Fundays! In the coming weeks we will be hiring a new Director of Religious Education and additional staff members. Our children, youth, and families, appreciate your input and involvement!

[Please take our survey.](#)

Sunday Fundays!

8/4/24

The Rules Make the Game / Making Posters for Ice Cream Social

8/11/24

Moral Tales: What would UU Do

8/18/24

Food Skits

8/25/24

Robots (Discovery Play/ STEM activity)

9/1/24

Moral Tales: We Are All One

9/8/24

Deep Fun, Energy Breaks



MESSAGE FROM THE CARE TEAM

VOL-UN-TEER; A PERSON WHO FREELY OFFERS TO TAKE PART IN AN ENTERPRISE OR UNDERTAKE A TASK.



Volunteer Appreciation

This month we shine the spotlight on Cathy and Jim Sleezer. They are another couple in our congregation who have spent many hours in church volunteer mode. Cathy has taught leadership programs to a number of Committee chairs over her tenure. She has provided a great deal of support to CYRE as well in years gone by. Cathy has trained therapy dogs and works with 'challenged' dogs. She has trained some for our members in the years. Jim has served as a long time member of the Personnel Committee. And he has been a 'devoted' Key Person for ages. Cathy and Jim are great supporters of Hope and we're grateful!





AUGUST EVENTS

● Board and Committee Meetings

All Hope members are welcome to attend the following meetings, which are held at the church unless otherwise indicated:

- Finance Committee: 6:00 PM, Tuesday, August 20th
- Board of Trustees: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 27th

● Church Events

All are welcome to attend the events listed below. (This is not a complete list of events taking place at the church this month; other events may be private or limited to members of specific church groups.) Dates and times listed below may change! Please check the church's online calendar at www.hopeuu.org/calendar for the most current schedule of events.

Women of Hope: Thursday, August 1st, 6:30 PM. Julia Harris' Home.

Ice Cream Social/Game Night: 6:00 PM, August 15th.

Feed the Homeless: August 17th, 5:00 PM

Sundays: Children and Youth Religious Education: 9:45 AM, Adult Forum: 10:00 AM, Sunday Service: 11:00 AM

● Log Cabin Rentals

The following support groups currently rent the Log Cabin on a weekly or monthly basis:

- Sundays, 2:00-3:00 PM: Gamblers Anonymous (GA)
- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM: SouthSide Recovery/Narcotics Anonymous (SSR/NA)
- Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-noon: Al-Anon
- Wednesdays, 5:45-7:00 PM: Codependents Anonymous (CoDA)
- Usually the 3rd Saturday of each month, 4:00-6:00 PM: Victims' Voices (victim impact panel).

Check their website or www.hopeuu.org/calendar for specific dates.

● Cereal Days

Breakfast cereal (no Cheerios, please!) for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless can be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, or Tuesday thru Friday from 9AM-3PM.

This Month's Cereal Sunday will be on August 11th.



AUGUST EVENTS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Claudia Vandiver - 2

Elizabeth Obal - 3

Lacey Carlile - 4

Anne Steiner - 5

Lana Larkin - 6

Lonnie Davis - 6

Sam Rauh - 11

Clara Dossett - 11

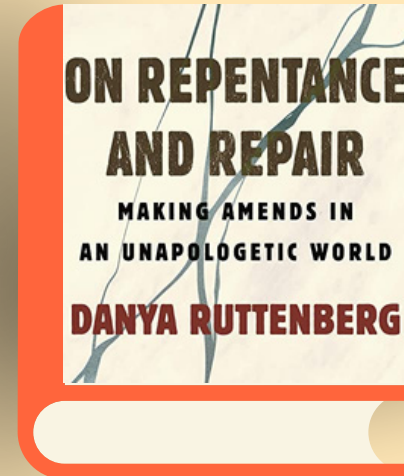
Joe Newman - 13

Emmanuel Tracy - 14

Shelley Geyer - 22

Janet Everidge 24

Leah Anrig - 29



UU Common Read 2024

When we do a UU Common read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. This year's common read book is "On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World" by Danya Ruttenberg.

August Adult Forum Topics

August 4: Generosity Recipient, Youth at Heart

August 11: The Hope Banned & Challenged Book Club: The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (please attend even if you haven't read the book!)

August 18: The Age of Enlightenment with Charlie Dugan

August 25: Conflict Resolution with Jo Ann Howse





ABOUT HOPE CHURCH

HOPE'S MINISTER

Rev. Justin M. McCreary

Rev. Justin's usual office hours are Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10 AM-3PM.

Please email him in advance at revjustin@hopeuu.org to schedule an appointment to meet in person or via Zoom.

If your need is urgent, call him. 918-481-0999, x2.

SUNDAYS

Children's Church and Youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Forum: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Services: 11:00 a.m.

Weekdays

Hope's general office hours are 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays. If you wish to visit the church in person, please call ahead to check staff availability. (For security reasons, external doors are kept locked unless an event is in progress.) We respond to email and voicemail messages from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays.

HOPE'S STAFF

Justin McCreary

Minister

Morgen Fields

Church Administrator

Elizabeth Obal

Church Accountant

Christy Stalcup

Music Director

CONTACT US

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2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Tracy, President

Vanessa Self, President Elect

James Donovan, Past-President

Jeff Dossett, Vice President of Finance and Planning

Mary Baird, Vice President of Programs

Christy Chesnut Levine, Secretary

Cynthia Heifner, Treasurer

Emily Scherer, Trustee

Currently Vacant, Trustee

